

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond C. Stewart on 03/29/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Delete claims 1-18**

**Amendment to the Specification:**

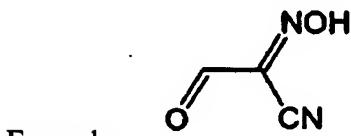
On page 1 of the specification, after the title, page 1, line 7:

*DEH*  
4/24/07  
**INSERT the following paragraph:**

----- This Application is a 371 of PCT/JP03/00647 filed on 24 January 2002, which in turn claims foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 to applications filed in Japan, serial number 2002-15191, filed January 24, 2002, Japan serial number 2002-101259, filed April 03, 2002, Japan serial number 2002-106657, filed April 09, 2002, and Japan serial number 2002-197135, filed August 05, 2002.-----

**Reasons for Allowance**

The instant application is directed to 2-hydroxyimino-3-oxopropio-nitrile compound of



and to a process of preparing thereof. The closest prior art is U.S. Patent No. 4,665,186 to Steiner et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,665,186 teach tetrasubstituted-4-formylbutyronitriles. The compounds claimed in this application have a hydroxyimino substituent at the 2-position. Nothing known in the art anticipates or renders the process described in this application obvious. Therefore, claims 19 and 20 are allowed.